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Saturday, June 8, 2013

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Two dead, several hurt in California shootings

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - At least two people were killed and three injured Friday in a multiple shooting in California, reports said, as a witness told how an armor-clad gunman opened fire on a motorist at point blank range.

Two bodies were found inside a home which had apparently been set on fire by a man who began shooting at cars, the Los Angeles Times reported, as police said one sus-

pect had been arrested but another may be on the loose.

The shootings, involving multiple crime scenes, occurred in Santa Monica, a few miles away from where President Barack Obama was attending a fundraiser.

One detained suspect was held in the library of Santa Monica College, according to the Los Angeles Times, while live television showed police swarming into the area.

## Texas actress arrested in US ricin case

WASHINGTON, June 7, 2013 (AFP) - A Texas actress was arrested Friday for mailing ricin-laced letters to President Barack Obama, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and a gun control activist, officials said.

Shannon Richardson, also known as Shannon Guess and Shannon Rogers, was charged with mailing a threatening communication to the president of the United States, according to the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas.

The 35-year-old was arrested in Mount Pleasant, Texas and appeared before US Magistrate Judge Caroline Craven in Texarkana. She faces up to 10 years in federal prison if convicted.

Reports said that Richardson initially had told the FBI that her husband Nathan Richardson may have sent the letters.

She claimed to have found castor beans -- used to make ricin -- and ricin-related Internet searches on their computer at home.

## PACO III looks to practical solutions for rampant obesity in the region



**Minister of Public Health Richard Visser gives the opening address**

Hundreds of health professionals, legislators and administrators of health NGO's and government agencies from 32 nations are gathered at the Westin Aruba Resort for the Third Pan American Conference on Obesity, or PACO III, with Special Attention to Childhood Obesity.

Workshops and seminars began on June 5, but official opening ceremonies took place yesterday morning with a welcome from Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman, and, via Internet, the Director of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, PAHO/WHO, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne. Moderating the event was Chairman of the PACO Board Philip James and the opening address was delivered by the man who conceptualized and initiated the PACO cooperative, Aruba's Minister of Public Health and Sports, Dr. Richard Visser.

This third PACO session is of extreme importance, ac-

**International Assembly of delegates from 32 countries**

cording to this year's rapporteurs, Pilar M. Torres of PAHEF and Caroline Bollars of the WHO. They will be recording and analyzing all the information imparted during the five-day conference, to eventually produce a document of findings and conclusions. The rapporteurs from PACO II, Dr Rafael Perez-Escamilla and Dr. Gilberto Kac, presented a

copy of their report from that conference "Preventing Childhood Obesity in the Americas: The Life-Course Framework," to PM Eman during the opening event.

"This third PACO conference is where we are really going to make sure of addressing the problem of obesity at the political level," explained Ms. Bollars.

Continued on pg 5

## A new generation of tourism executives welcome ATEX delegates



Photo depicts from L to R: Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber presenting ACE Agent "Top producer for the Year 2012" Shannon Haynes with a gift, Aruba Tourism Authority's CEO Ronella Tjin-A-Sjoe and organizer of the event ATA's Trade Relations Manager Valery Habibe. (see story on pg 3)



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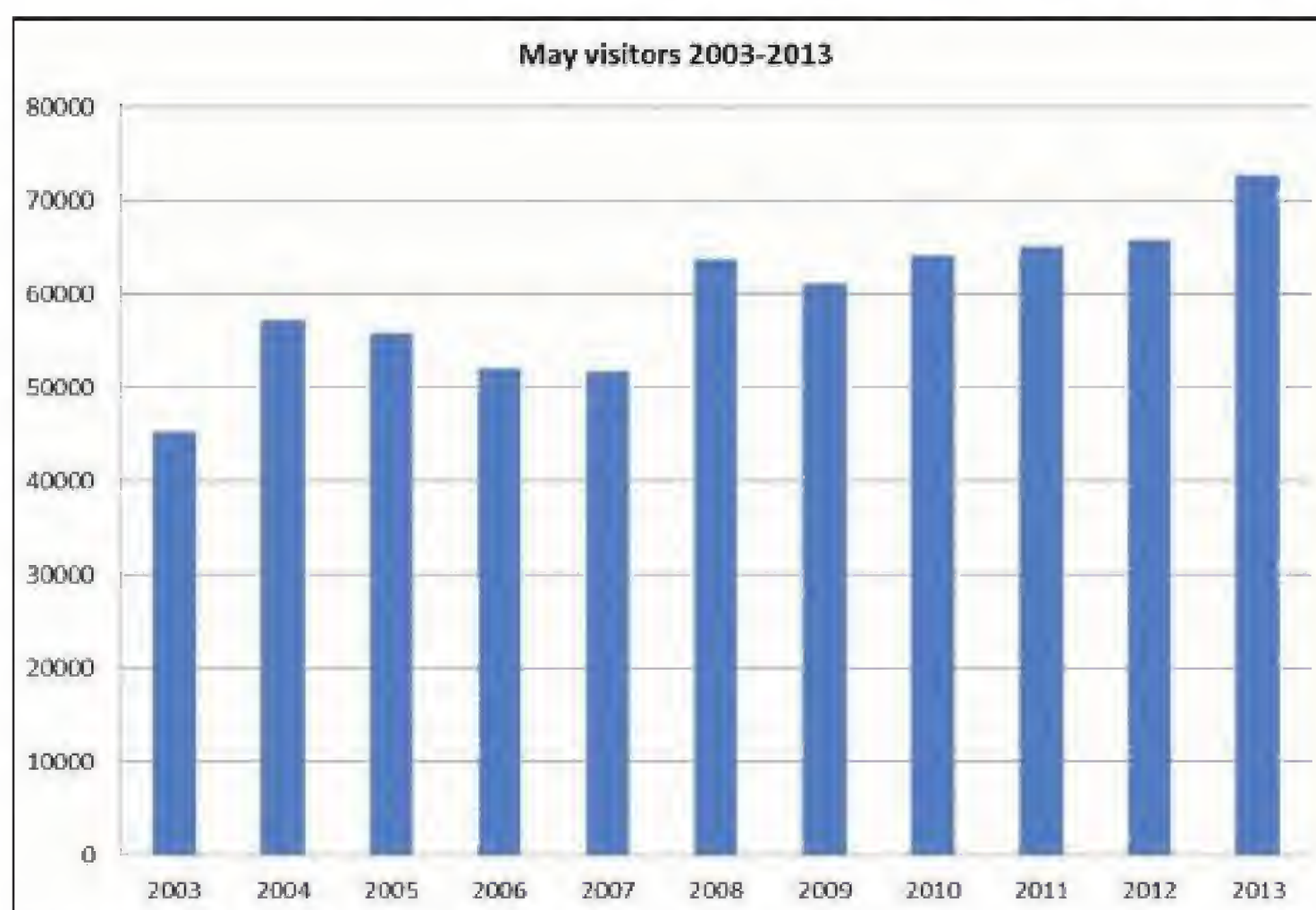
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## ATA reports record number of tourist visits for month of May



The Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) in their latest bulletin reports a record breaking 10.6% increase in tourist arrivals for the month of May 2013 compared to that of May 2012. In absolute figures this is a difference of 6,954 visi-

tors more compared to May of last year. May 2012 figures were: 65,792 and May 2013 was: 72,746 visitors. The increase in visitors was primarily attributed to the US markets, Venezuela, Colombia, as well as from Brazil.

The Year-to-Date statistics show that from January 2012 to May 2012, Aruba welcomed a total of 368,426 visitors, while from January 2013 to May 2013 we welcomed 388,411 tourists to the island. This represents an increase of 5.42% compared to last year.

### North America:

Aruba's primary tourism region increased by 6% compared to May of last year. A total of 45,861 visitors came from the USA in 2013 with 43,323 in May of 2012. The difference is 5.86%, or 2,538 visitors more. From Canada, a total of 2,168 visitors came to the island, which is 44 persons more than last year when 2,212 persons visited, a decrease of 1.9%. North America represents 63.2% of the total market during the month of May 2013. With respect to January to May 2013 compared to 2012 we have noted an increase of 2% for the North American region.

### Latin America:

The Latin American mar-

ket has increased during the month of May by 40% compared to the same period in 2012. A total of 9,027 visitors came from Venezuela. The Venezuelan market has grown by 37.19% compared to May 2012. In absolute figures this amounts to 2,447 visitors more compared to the same month last year May 2012. Colombia also showed an increase of 82.07%, which is equal to 787 visitors more than May 2012. From Brazil we noted an increase of 424 visitors to the island. Brazil increased by 34.9%. In May 2012 their total was 1,215 visitors and in May 2013 the total was 1,639 visitors. From Argentina 1,049 visitors came to Aruba, representing an increase of 10.89%, the equivalent of 103 visitors more than last year. Chile also showed an increase of 99 visitors more than last year. In May 2012 this market brought us 301 visitors and in May 2013 that amount jumped to 400 visitors representing an increase of 32.89%. The Latin American region represents 20% of the total market for the month of May 2013. For the period Jan-

uary to May 2013 compared to last year this grew by 21%.

### Europe:

For this region we have noted an increase of 2% compared to May 2012. With a total of 3,271 visitors, Holland showed an increase of 9.58% compared to May 2012. Nevertheless the economic situation has remained weak in this region. From Germany there was a decrease of 11.8% (38 visitors less). England also had a decrease by 14.75% or 264 visitors less compared to May 2012. From the Scandinavian countries there was an increase of 45 visitors more. In May 2012 a total of 122 visitors came to Aruba and in May 2013 167 tourists came from here to Aruba. From Italy we noted an increase of 20% with 27 visitors more. In May 2012 a total of 135 visitors came to Aruba and in May 2013 this increased to 1162 visitors. The European market share for the month of May is 7.34%.

For the period January to May 2013, compared to 2012 we noted an increase of 3% from the European region.

## Motorist beware!

### Weststraat to be closed partially as of Monday, June 10th

ORANJESTAD — The Department of Public Works (DOW) announces that on Monday, June 10, the Weststraat will be partially closed for all traffic. This is because DOW will begin with the construction of a drainage system at the crossing of Weststraat - J.G. Emanstraat up to schooner harbor.

The Weststraat will be closed between the crossing with Havenstraat and L.G. Smith Blvd, thus the piece of road east of the bus terminal. The road will be closed for all traffic for about three (3) weeks. DOW will advise motorist with barricades and traffic signs.

DOW asks everyone for their understanding and apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

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## Pope Francis quips he did not want the job

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis joked about the difficulties of being head of the world's Catholics saying he never wanted the job on Friday in unscripted comments in which he also said he had turned down luxury Vatican housing because it would be "boring".

"Someone who wants to be pope does not really like themselves," the pontiff said laughing, in answer to a child's query during a question-and-answer session with Jesuit school students in the Vatican.

"I did not want to be pope," he said.

His predecessor Benedict XVI once said he had prayed to God not to be elected pope but that "evidently this time he didn't listen to me."

Francis also told his audience he had decided not to move to the official papal apartments, staying in a residence hotel in the Vatican instead.



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# A new generation of tourism executives welcome ATEX delegates



Min. Oduber

The first Aruba Travel Expo to be conducted since the late 1980's, yesterday morning officially welcomed over 200 travel agents to Aruba for a weekend of becoming re-acquainted with the island, and familiar with all that is new. A highlight of this will be a trip to downtown Oranjestad to see the refurbished historical area and experience the free tram running from the cruise terminal to the main shopping street, the Caya G. F. "Betico" Croes.

During the official opening in the Radisson Resort, Casino & Spa ballroom, Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, personally welcomed all those attending. The con-

ference is by invitation only, and these only go to Aruba Certified Experts, or ACE agents, who have taken the training to be thoroughly versed in all of the island's accommodations and amenities.

It was Minister Oduber urging that resulted in the Aruba Tourism Authority, ATA, to again begin conducting ATEX conference. "Travel agents are responsible for 20% of the bookings for Aruba," he explained. "The Internet may be responsible for an increasing number of them now, but we see people are going back to travel agents for their expertise and recommendations. I think we will also see this increase. Even if they book on-



ATA's CEO Ronella Tjin-A-Sjoe

line, they are still consulting agents well acquainted with the destination for recommendations before finalizing their travel decisions."

"I was only a tourism student during those ATEX conference of the eighties that brought travel agents from Latin America, North America and Europe" he told the gathering. I can still remember the impact that this Aruba visit had on the travel agents and the destination. You know, even better than we, the best way to endorse a product is to experience it firsthand."

Also welcoming the ACE agents were CEO of the ATA, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes and



ATA North America Manager Neville Every

CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, Jim Hepple. They were brought up to date on the ATA's philosophy of marketing Aruba via "intelligent marketing," taking advantage of all sources for pinpointing what travelers want and improving the destination.

Mr. Hepple, who thanked them for their great interest, and taking the time and expense to come to Aruba, so as to be able to offer their clients the most current information. He also noted the concern that travel agents are becoming "less significant, but the trend appears to be recognizing the value they offer...and the expertise that cannot be



AHATA CEO Jim Hepple

found elsewhere."

ATA Trade Relations Manager Valery Habibe, who is the organizer of the event, was honored to announce the ACE Agent "Top Producer for the Year 2012." The award went to Shannon Haynes, who has her own agency, SRH Travel, serving the Greensboro, North Carolina area. Shannon received a gift from the Minister and CEO of the ATA.

Closing off the morning, travel agents heard from ATA personnel on Aruba's tourism products and the benefits and incentives they will receive as ACE agents. A special treat was motivational speaker and marketing guru Cheryl Gregory.

By Rosalie Klein





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## Marriot Resort elegantly welcomes travel agents for the Aruba Travel Expo 2013



The invitation-only Aruba Travel Expo (ATEX) 2013, officially began on Thursday evening, June 6, with an elegant welcome reception hosted by the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, around their stunning, adults-only H2O pool area.

The entire affair embodied the essence of the ATEX, a time for the 200 Aruba Certified Expert (ACE) travel agents could learn about what is new and exciting on the

island. This special section of the Marriott Resort has been open for not quite a year, so was a revelation. Well known as a family-oriented resort area, it demonstrated the Marriott's sensitivity to the desires of its clients, while proving a perfect venue for a sophisticated and stylish soiree.

Visiting travel agents had an excellent sampling of the fantastic catering done by the resort's culinary department, which makes it also a very popular venue for weddings, conferences and special events. They were able to make the rounds of the Stir-Fry Station, the Pasta Station, Salad Station, Sushi Station or select fresh carved tenderloin steak.

The visiting agents had a chance to meet all the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) sales reps and hotel executives, as well as the guest keynote motivational speaker for the official opening ceremonies yesterday morning, marketing guru Cheryl Gregory. The evening finished with a stunning demonstration of athletic prowess by Aruba's gold medal-winning synchronized swim team, the Barracudas.

By Rosalie Klein



## Team ARUBA carries 'winning high' into ADRL U.S. Drags



**UNION, S.C. June —, 2013:** Team Aruba's capture of their first ADRL Extreme Pro Stock victory warranted victory celebrations from Cordova, Ill. to Union, S.C. to south of the equator where the country of Aruba gave perhaps the loudest victory shout yet. The Aruba.com / Alltel Wireless team was greeted at the airport by family, friends, racers, fans and media. TV and radio stations were even live on air for their triumphant arrival. The team, whose humble demeanor belies their success, was blown away by this reception and is still wrapping their heads around the glory of their long awaited victory.

"I could not believe the amount of people who have and are still congratulating us on our recent win," told driver Trevor Eman. "The response received from all of Team Aruba's fans after winning the race has been phenomenal. Our home country gave us an incredible welcome. Aruba was so proud of our achievement. It is truly a wonderful feeling when you are supported by your country. I cannot thank Aruba enough for standing behind us the way they do."

"Needless to say, we are still feeling that winning

high. The support has overwhelmed us and boosted our confidence even more. It's wonderful that we are going into Virginia as points leaders. Our goal for the weekend will be to leave there as points leaders. We certainly have a team capable of doing this. All the guys on the team are on their game and together we have a good fast race car to compete with."

The ADRL U.S. Drags VI will be contested June 8-9 at Virginia Motorsports Park. Trevor Eman does take the points lead into this event, 99 points ahead of John Pluchino and 202 points ahead of Pete Berner, who are number two and three respectively.

"Now that we've had a taste of victory we are even more excited to compete in Extreme Pro Stock with the world's best Mountain Motor teams. We're also very excited that bangshift.com will be streaming this event live. Fans can watch us live by logging onto bangshift or by following the links on ADRL.us."

Tune into the U.S. Drags this weekend via ADRL.us.

Keep up with Team Aruba at [www.facebook.com/teamarubaracing](http://www.facebook.com/teamarubaracing) and on Twitter @TeamArubaRacing.



# PACO III looks to practical solutions for rampant obesity...

Continued from pg 1



**Dr. Carissa F. Etienne** Director Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization

"The first was prior to the UN Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases, bringing together the whole Pan American region to address the priorities on obesity. I believe Minister Visser really made this happen and is why all the ministers committed to acknowledging that prevention of childhood obesity is important. The second year we came together to see what is going on in the region, plans of action were raised, members states, academia, and other stakeholders joined in to report on what action they were taking. This year, however, it is about "How can we translate that to sustainability?" How can we make sure member states translate our findings to their national policies, and how is it actually reducing the burden of obesity for the entire American region."

This was the thrust from the Director of PAHO/WHO, Dr. Etienne, in her video address to the gathering. She urged them to hammer out plans and legislation that delegates could take home and pass into law. These would control the marketing of unhealthy, sugary beverages to youngsters, control the food and drink provided in schools as part of lunches or for sale, and also control the marketing of non-breast milk formula and starter foods, encouraging mothers to give their babies the optimal nutritional foundation.

An unexpected greeter to conference attendees was Senator Blanca Maria Del Socorro Alcala Ruiz of Mexico, who personally complimented those attending on what they are trying to achieve, and the importance of the goals of the PACO.

Over these days, dozens of presenters will be sharing their expertise and ideas for programs to combat obesity, beginning from infancy, which is considered crucial to the economic stability of the region. The ethnic background of Caribbean peoples have shown them to be par-



**Sen. Blanca Marios Del Socorro Alcala Ruiz** of Mexico particularly prone to being overweight, exacerbated by cultural traditions which include



**Moderator, PACO Chairman Philip James** diets heavy in starches and fried foods. The people of the region have also been found

to be genetically inclined to chronic, debilitating conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure, which puts an enormous burden on a nation's health system.

The concept of PACO is to address the general wellness of a country, via fit, active children, thus preventing obesity and the chronic diseases that result at younger and younger ages.

By Rosalie Klein



**Dr Rafael Perez Escamill and Dr Gilberto Kac**

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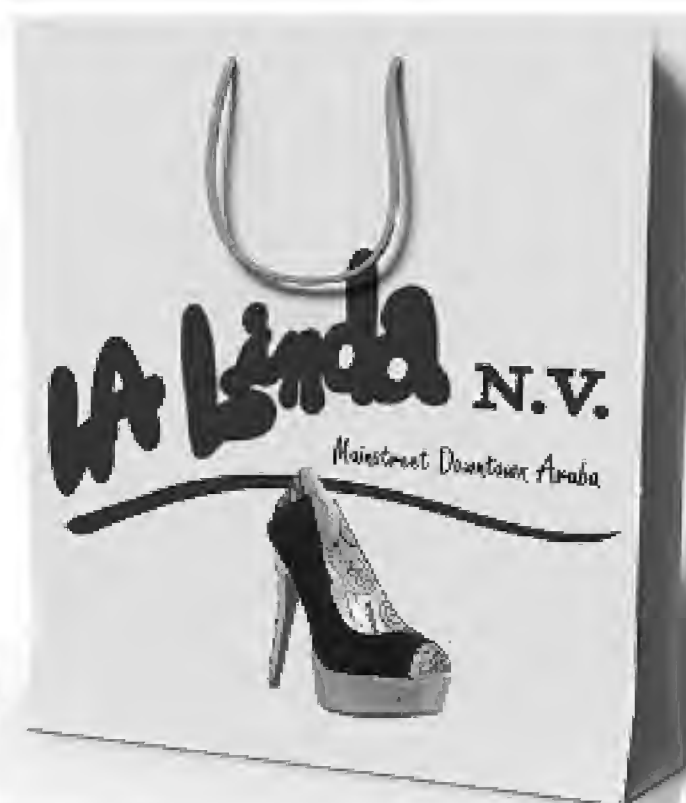


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### Experts affirm Venezuela is under an epidemic disease of AH1N1

CARACAS — Representatives from the Venezuelan Infectious Diseases Society informed on Friday that virus AH1N1 reported in 724 individuals has practically spread over the whole country, which expresses signs of an epidemic disease totaling 23 people dead.

According to head professor head professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Central University of Venezuela (UCV) and a representative of the Venezuelan Infectious Diseases Society, Luis

Echezuria, said that considering that events of AH1N1 have been reported in 20 out of 23 states of Venezuela in individuals of all ages, then "we have shifted from an epidemic disease outbreak to epidemic disease."

Regarding the number of people dead, Pediatrician and Epidemiologist Alejandro Riquez says that although there are more than 700 people with influenza, the projection is 9,900 people per every person hospitalized.

### Colombia will reach peace deal by end of 2013: president

LONDON (AFP) - Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos hopes to bring peace between his government and leftist rebels by the end of the year, he told an economic forum in London on Friday, insisting his country was safe for investors and had huge potential.

"I think that with political will from the other side, we can finish the negotiations and end the conflict by the end of this year," he told a conference organised by the Financial Times newspaper.

He told business leaders he did not want to set a strict deadline for concluding the "difficult" process of negotiating with the FARC rebels, who are engaged in their first peace talks with the government in a decade.

But he said that a peace deal would have "very positive" consequences for both Colombia and the rest of Latin America.

The talks, which opened in November in the Cuban capital Havana, are the fourth attempt since the 1980s to bring peace to Colombia.

But the negotiations are

taking place without a ceasefire and face many obstacles, including whether the rebels can avoid jail before returning to civilian life, the FARC's role in drug trafficking, disarmament and compensation for victims.

The war has ravaged Colombia for fifty years and has left 600,000 dead, more than 3.7 million displaced and 15,000 missing.

On May 26 the two sides announced a deal on "land access and use" and the "regularisation of property" which was welcomed by the United Nations.

The talks are currently in recess and are set to resume on Tuesday with a focus on how the guerrillas would participate in politics under a deal.

"I am quite confident that we will reach an agreement," Santos said.

"The guerrillas don't have an alternative. Honestly, it's now or never."

But he added that there could be no final peace deal until agreement was reached on all of the issues on the table.

### Brazil security forces make record drug seizure

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazilian security forces have made a record drug seizure and disrupted the production of 30 tons of cocaine in neighboring Peru during a massive 19-day border operation, authorities said Friday.

The army and police operation netted 25 tons of marijuana and 657 kilograms (1,450 pounds) of cocaine and crack, the Defense Ministry announced, saying the seizure represents a "historic record."

Coordinated with Peru and Colombia along the 11,000 kilometer (6,800-mile) frontier, the operation disrupted smuggling and forced traffickers to abandon production of some 30 tons of cocaine destined for southern Brazil, the United States and Europe, the ministry said in a statement.

The Amazon region's military commander, Eduardo Villas Boas, said that along the border with Peru, coca planting occupied an area of 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) and produced three harvests a year.

"With this operation, they (traffickers) lost the harvest and stopped refining a third of the 100 tons they produce annually," said Sergio Lucio Fontes, an Amazon federal police official.

Some 33,000 soldiers took part in the operation, along with 1,100 government officials. Weapons, explosives and illegally logged timber were also seized.

The operation is part of a strategic border security plan announced by President Dilma Rousseff in June 2011.

Behind the United States, Brazil is the world's second biggest consumer of cocaine and crack, a cocaine derivative with devastating effects.

### World journalists' union condemns Turkey violence

DUBLIN (AFP) - The International Journalists' Federation on Friday condemned the "disproportionate force" used by Turkish authorities against reporters covering the deadly nationwide protests.

Police in Istanbul have deliberately targeted journalists with teargas and several had been injured covering the unrest that has spread from the city across the country, the IFJ said in a statement.

The union, which represents some 600,000 journalists in more than 100 countries, adopted an emergency motion at its international conference in Dublin deploring the "disproportionate use of force, the massive use of tear gas (and) the use of armoured vehicles to smash the barricades".

The IFJ said some of its members had faced "verbal intimidation" and their equipment had been damaged by protesters, with "Turkish journalists working for media considered favourable to the government" targeted in particular.

The IFJ's congress urged its executive committee to push for "the immediate release of all journalists put in custody during these protests" and for Turkish au-

thorities to drop any legal action against them.

The unrest began a week ago when police cracked down heavily on a peaceful campaign to save Istanbul's Gezi Park, spiralling into nationwide demos against Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party (AKP), who the protesters see as increasingly authoritarian.

Three people have been killed in clashes across Turkey since the protests broke out.

### Rolls-Royce wins \$4-bn Singapore Airlines engines deal

LONDON (AFP) - British aircraft engine maker Rolls-Royce said Friday that it has won a \$4.0-billion (3.0-billion-euro) engines deal from Singapore Airlines.

"Rolls-Royce has been selected by Singapore Airlines Group to power 50 Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft with Trent 1000 engines," it revealed in a statement.

"The announcement, which includes long-term Total-Care service support, is worth \$4.0 billion at current list prices."



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## International News

### Off-duty US marine kidnapped in Mexico

NUEVO LAREDO (AFP) - An off-duty US Marine of Mexican descent was kidnapped last month along with his father and an uncle in crime-ridden northeastern Mexico, a local official told AFP late Thursday.

Gunmen kidnapped the three men on May 15, while the marine was visiting a family ranch located near a bridge over the Rio Grande connecting Mexico to the Texas border town of Brownsville.

Torres, a marine reservist, had crossed the border to visit his Mexican father, the official said.

Mexican media reported that Torres's relatives had approached the US consulate in Matamoros seeking help.

Mexico's far northeastern state of Tamaulipas has one of the highest rates of violence in the country.

Two of the Mexico's most powerful drug gangs, the Zetas and the Gulf cartel, are battling for control of lucrative border smuggling routes into the United States. Both groups have also branched out into other crime like kidnapping and extortion.

Some 70,000 people were killed in Mexico during the presidency of Felipe Calderon (2006-2012) due to drug related violence and the government crackdown aimed at stamping it out.

The current administration of President Enrique Pena Nieto has not released data on drug violence victims, but the crackdown has remained in place across the country.

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## Peru president denies Fujimori pardon

LIMA (AFP) - Peru's President Ollanta Humala on Friday denied a request to pardon former president Alberto Fujimori, who is serving a 25-year sentence for human rights abuses.

Justice Minister Daniel Figallo announced the decision, saying Humala had decided

to accept a special committee's recommendation against granting Fujimori a pardon on humanitarian grounds.

Humala "decided not to exercise his authority to grant a humanitarian pardon," Figallo said.

Fujimori, who governed Peru from 1990 to 2000, was

convicted in 2009 of the killings of 25 people by a government-backed death squad in the course of Peru's war against the Maoist Shining Path rebel group.

The 74-year-old had submitted a request for a pardon eight months ago, arguing that he was suffering from a

recurring cancer of the tongue and depression.

He has been treated for cancerous lesions on his tongue while in prison, but a medical panel in March said there was no evidence it had returned.

"Fujimori does not have a terminal illness, neither does

he have a serious, incurable degenerative illness," Figallo said. "Neither does he have serious incurable mental disorders."

In light of those considerations, Humala did not have sufficient reasons to overturn Fujimori's sentence, the minister said.



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## Health & Living

### Haiti with Import ban on poultry, eggs and live animals from the Dominican Republic



DOMINICA, Following the warning from the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSP) on the resurgence of avian flu (H1N1 virus) in the Dominican Republic (8 cases recognized) and the confirmation of such information by the

Haitian diplomatic representation in neighboring Republic, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Agriculture of the Republic of Haiti, inform the Haitian consumers, users of the Haitian-Dominican border, as well as importers and retail-

ers that import and sale of meat products, particularly poultry, eggs and live animals potentially infected or carriers of bird flu, from the Dominican Republic are prohibited until further order.

The ban takes effect immediately.

In the meantime, the services of the Ministries collect detailed information about the impact of this new outbreak of bird flu, in order to assess the appropriateness of adopting other measures. No cases have been detected so far in Haiti, the country is on high alert, especially in border towns and arrangements are already taken to protect the Haitian population against the virus.

### Vaccine hopes for hand, foot, mouth disease

PARIS (AFP) - Researchers in China said a trial vaccine provided "significant" protection against a virus that can cause potentially deadly hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) in children.

In the final testing phase, the vaccine proved 90 percent effective, providing protection for at least 12 months against HFMD caused by the enterovirus 71 (EV71), said a study published in The Lancet.

Since it was discovered in 1969, EV71 has caused major outbreaks of HFMD around the world, affecting mostly children and mainly in Asia.

HFMD caused by EV71 has caused more than 2,000 deaths out of about six million infections, mainly of children,

in the past decade, said the study's authors.

It can also cause other, more severe diseases in young children, such as meningitis and encephalitis.

The candidate vaccine was tested in a trial with more than 10,000 healthy children from six to 35 months of age at four sites across China. Half of the children were given the vaccine and half a placebo.

HFMD starts with fever, painful sores in the mouth, and a rash of blisters on the hands, feet and buttocks, followed in some cases by more serious neurological, cardiovascular and breathing problems.

Not to be confused with foot-and-mouth disease in cattle, sheep and pigs, HFMD is

spread from person to person through direct contact.

No vaccine yet exists against the EV71 virus.

The study authors said there was no evidence their trial drug would work on coxsackievirus A16 -- a virus that often circulates with EV71 and is the main cause of HFMD, though in a milder form.

In a comment published with the study, The Lancet described the results as a "notable advance" but said it was limited in dealing exclusively with the C4 strain of EV71 which is predominant in mainland China.

It is thus not known whether the trial vaccine would also work on regionally specific strains.

### US panel wants diabetes drug restrictions eased

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Independent experts urged US federal regulators yesterday to reduce restrictions on Glaxo-SmithKline's controversial diabetes drug Avandia, banned in Europe over heart attack risk concerns.

Thirteen members of the 26-member independent advisory panel convened by the Food and Drug Administration said strict US restrictions imposed in 2010 should be eased.

Seven experts voted to lift them entirely, five to keep them and one said Avandia should be taken off the market.

Other experts who voted similarly said a new analysis of clinical data was favorable for Avandia, although there is still uncertainty about whether the drug can raise the risk of a heart attack.

The panel voted at the end of two days of meetings on a new review of the GSK trial called RECORD, which confirmed the company's initial finding that Avandia does not raise cardiac risk more than other diabetes drugs.

The British pharma giant GSK recently paid researchers

at Duke University in North Carolina to carry out the new analysis of the data.

The FDA is under no obligation to follow the recommendations of expert panels, though it usually does.

Once a blockbuster drug for patients with type 2 diabetes, Avandia was approved in 1999 and soared to sales of \$3 billion per year, but its use has declined dramatically in recent years.

Other research has pointed to a rise in heart attacks and strokes among patients using Avandia to control their blood sugar, and critics have alleged flaws in the RECORD trial, which showed it was relatively safe.

The Avandia controversy erupted after a 2007 study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that it raised the risk of heart attack by 43 percent.

In 2010, the FDA slapped tight restrictions on use of Avandia, following the recommendations of independent experts who had concluded the drug significantly raised the risk of heart attacks.



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## Sci-Tech

# White House denies spying on US citizens

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House denied spying on US citizens or people living in the United States, after revelations of a vast Internet surveillance program.

The Washington Post and Britain's Guardian newspaper reported that the National Security Agency (NSA) had tapped directly into the servers of Internet giants -- including Microsoft, Google, Facebook and Apple -- to obtain videos, photographs and emails.

Those reports came on the heels of The Guardian revealing a massive spy agency sweep of domestic phone records.

But a senior Obama administration official said that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the Executive Branch and Congress all have oversight over the Internet surveillance program.

"It involves extensive procedures, specifically approved by the court, to ensure that only non-US persons outside the US are targeted, and that minimize the acquisition, retention and dissemination of incidentally acquired information about US persons," the official added.

And Congress recently reauthorized the program under Section 702 of the For-

ign Intelligence Surveillance Act "after extensive hearings and debate," the official noted.

The NSA program known as PRISM -- which gave the intelligence community direct access to the servers of web titans including Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, Facebook, Apple, PalTalk, AOL, Skype and YouTube -- is expected to stoke enormous controversy.

Reports said PRISM enabled the NSA and FBI to track an individual's Web presence via analysis of audio, video, photographs, emails and connection logs.

The program was set up in 2007 and has grown "exponentially" to the point where it is now the most prolific contributor to President Barack Obama's Daily Brief, the US leader's top-secret daily intelligence briefing.

While leaked information suggested the Internet firms were willing participants in the program, most denied any knowledge of it.

The senior administration official offered a vigorous defense of the program, saying it provided "among the most important and valuable intelligence information we collect, and is used to protect our nation from a wide variety of threats."



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## Chinese firm gets concession for Nicaragua canal

MANAGUA (AFP) - Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said a concession to build an inter-oceanic canal across his Central American nation was awarded to an unnamed Chinese consortium based in Hong Kong.

A lawmaker said the waterway would cost \$40 billion to build.

Ortega made the announcement late Wednesday at ceremonies welcoming new ambassadors from Brazil, Canada, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He encouraged these countries to invest in the canal.

The ambitious project, Ortega said, includes a conventional canal, a "dry canal" -- a rail line -- as well as two airports and an oil pipeline to move petroleum from the Caribbean to the Pacific.

Work on the canal should

begin in May 2014 after a feasibility study is completed, the president said.

Ortega sent to the National Assembly a bill that would set the legal framework for building the canal.

Opposition lawmaker Eliseo Nunez told reporters the bill "would give a 100 year concession, like that given to the United States (to build and operate the Panama Canal), and that the Chinese were going to build the canal, which would cost \$40 billion."

Oddly, Nicaragua and China do not have formal diplomatic relations because of Managua's ties with Taiwan. But Nicaragua and China maintain economic relations.

In September 2012, Ortega said that the China-based HK-Nicaragua company would conduct the feasibility study to build the canal. In the Wednes-

day announcement he mentioned no names, but did say the concession was given to a consortium based in Hong Kong and formed by Chinese companies.

Plans to build a canal across Nicaragua date back many years, but were overtaken in 1914 when the 82-kilometer (51-mile) Panama Canal was completed.

In recent years, however, Nicaraguan governments have revived the concept as a way to promote development in the poorest country in the Americas after Haiti.

When the National Assembly authorized building the canal in mid-2012, it said the project would be operated as a joint public/private partnership, with the state maintaining a 51 percent stake.

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## COMICS

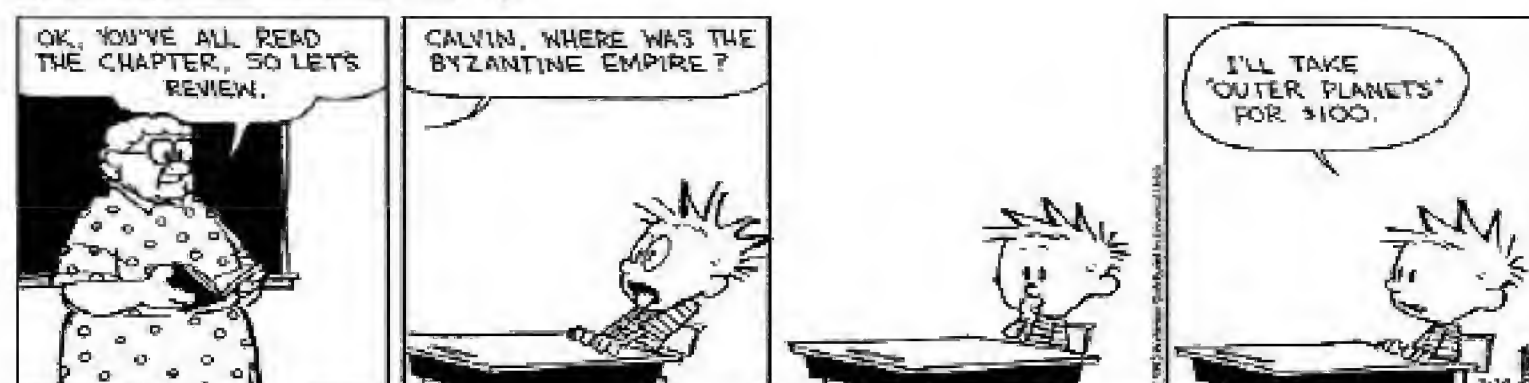
## PICKLES



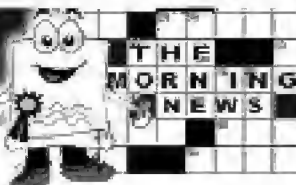
## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

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## ACROSS

1. Ref's colleague
4. Springform \_\_\_\_
7. Skyscraper, e.g. (abbr.)
11. Baseball's Maglie
12. Slang for coffee
13. Harvest crops
14. Time past
15. "Trinity" author Leon
16. Verdi work
17. Raul Castro's

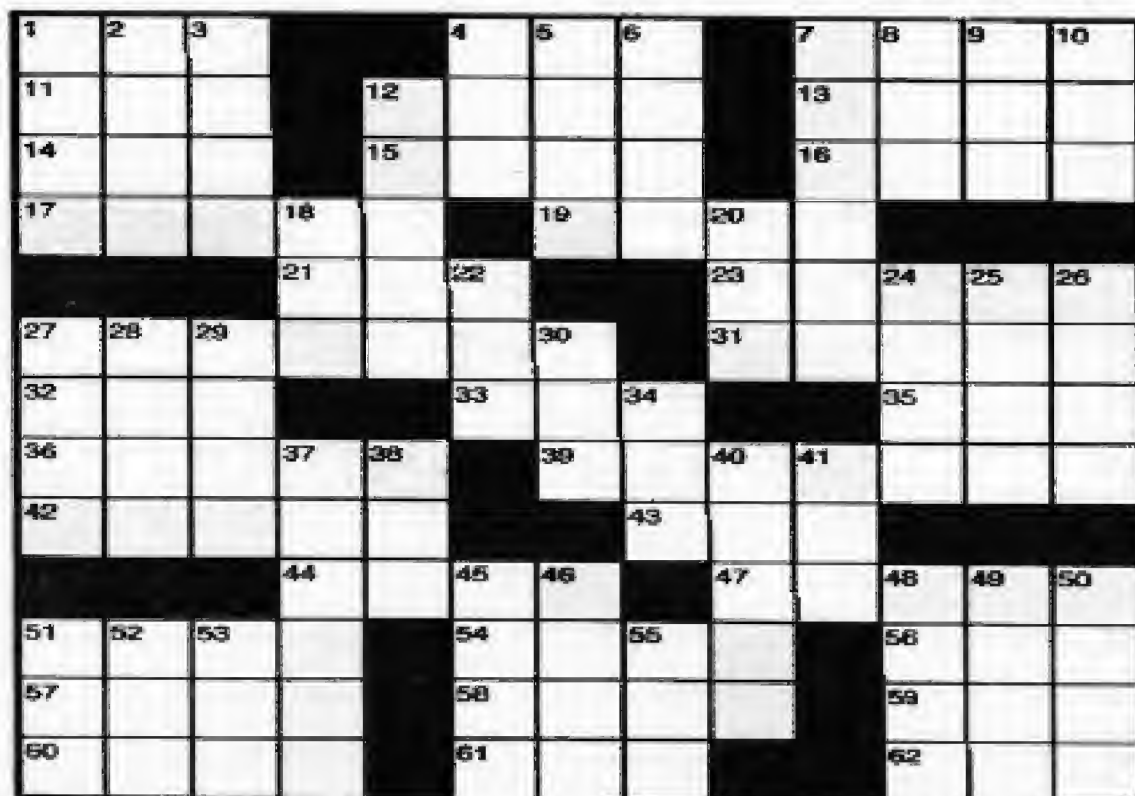
19. Mild oath
21. Pitcher spout
23. Candice Bergen's father
27. Pieces of buckshot
31. Line dance
32. Wide street (abbr.)
33. Use a straw
35. Calendar abbr.
36. Steinway, e.g.
39. Rests, in Mexico
42. Standish's stand-in
43. Compass pt.
44. Sentence part
47. Dance movements

51. Falafel's bread
54. Hawaiian isle
56. Curtsy's kin
57. Did farm work
58. Appetizer cheese
59. Fluffy stole
60. Ancient Peruvian
61. McBain and McMahon
62. Self-effacing

## DOWN

1. "Wild blue yonder" gp.
2. Star followers
3. Walk heavily
4. Golfer's score indicator
5. Enthusiastic
6. Astronauts' gp.

7. Actor Marlon
8. Hilo garland
9. Tie recipient in June
10. Grade Point Average (abbr.)
12. Actress Newmar
18. Building extension
20. \_\_\_\_ room
22. Two make a qt.
24. No-see-um beverage
25. Barcelona
26. Scraps of cloth
27. Daddy
28. Bad
29. Go first
30. \_\_\_\_ boom bah
34. Bakery treat
37. The Silver State
38. Small bill
40. Happen
41. Immovable
45. Judge's attire
46. The \_\_\_\_ of Avon
48. Declines
49. "Winnie-the-\_\_\_\_"
50. Influence
51. Frat house letter
52. Charged atom
53. Detective, informally
55. Male pronoun



# BOTICA

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Alzheimer's Day  
Care Center  
Tel: 5696910

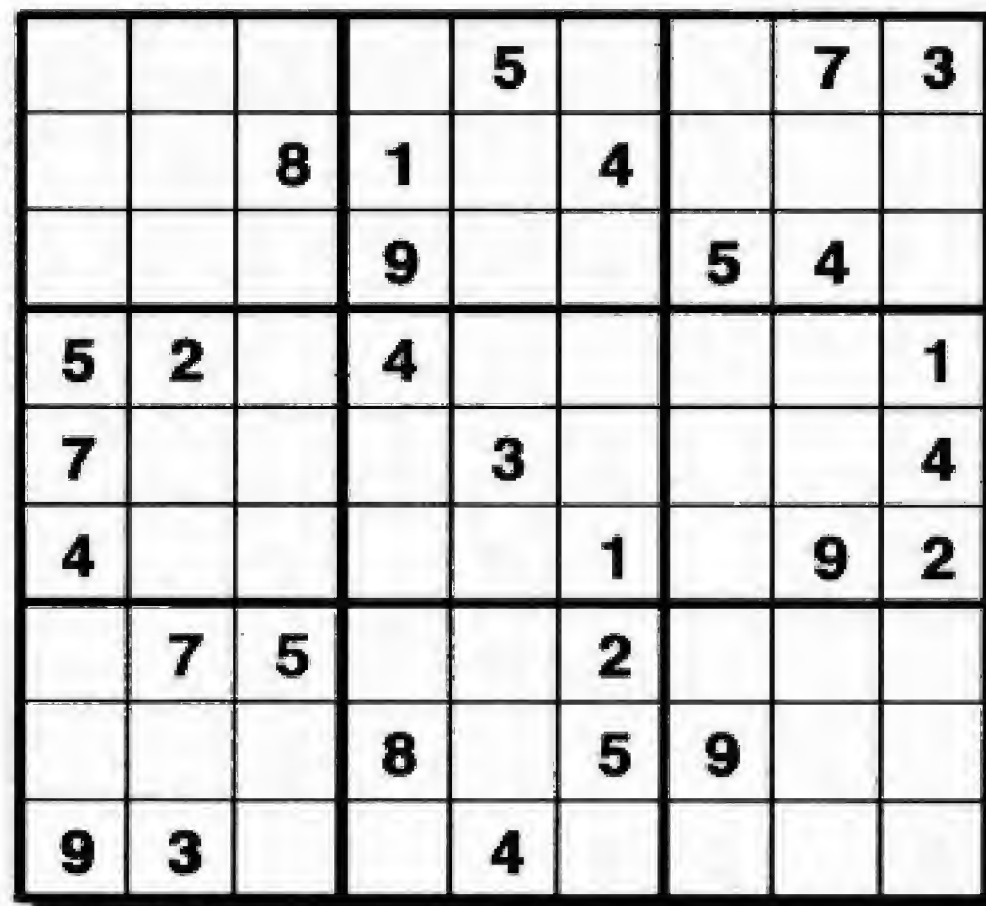
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# Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	8	2	9	1	4	1	8	8
4	6	8	9	1	8	2	5	9
9	1	5	2	6	8	5	4	9
2	6	4	1	9	5	8	9	7
7	5	8	6	2	8	1	4	2
1	9	6	4	9	7	6	2	5
8	7	5	2	6	4	1	9	1
6	2	9	7	4	1	8	5	6
3	4	1	8	5	9	7	6	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as 06/07/13	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.72	1.74	1.76
Britain	GBP	2.71	2.76	2.82
Switzerland	CHF	192.28	193.00	193.80
Netherlands	EUR	234.03	236.17	238.54
Sweden	SEK	26.19	26.91	27.71
Denmark	DKK	30.71	31.43	32.23
Norway	NOK	29.99	30.71	31.51
Japan	JPY	184.55	186.24	188.11
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.				

## Finance

### Overview of Aruba's State of the Economy in 2012

ORANJESTAD -- During 2012, the Aruban economy was impacted by the suspension and ceasing of the operations of the oil refinery. A strong growth in tourism demand partly cushioned the output loss related to oil refining activities. However, the effects of the cessation of these activities were still major. On balance, the CBA estimates that the economy in real terms contracted by 1.2 percent. The labor market was negatively affected as the unemployment rate rose from 8.9 percent in 2011 to 9.6 percent in 2012 due to direct and indirect job losses following the closure of the refinery. The upbeat performance in tourism was mainly driven by the Venezuelan market (+21.5 percent), while the U.S. market stayed flat. Cruise tourism had less favorable results in 2012, registering a decline of 2.9 percent. Average inflation in 2012 decelerated from 4.4 percent to only 0.6 percent, which was largely pushed down by significant reductions in the water (as of August 2012) and electricity (as of November 2012) tariffs.

Government finances remained on a fragile path, with the financial deficit (on a cash-adjusted basis as calculated by the CBA) reaching Afl. 413.7 million in 2012 (9.1 percent of GDP). The combination of fiscal deficit and economic contraction have contributed to a growing debt burden, which at end-2012 stood at 67.2 percent of GDP. Taking into account the small size of the Aruban economy, additional short-term measures should be taken to curb the expansionary pace of government debt with the medium-term aim to stabilize it at more sustainable levels.

The balance of payments recorded a surplus in 2012. This was the result of a stronger drop in imports compared to exports related to the activities of the oil sector, the further strengthening of the tourism sector, and the proceeds from a bond issue by the government on the international capital market. Meanwhile, monetary and prudential indicators remained adequate.

Looking forward, the CBA projects, based on currently available information, the economy to grow in real terms by 2.6 percent in 2013, after aforementioned GDP contraction in 2012. Also, reserves are expected to increase in 2013, supported by further gains in the tourism sector. In addition, the CBA expects deflationary pressures to persist, resulting in a 1.5 percent deflation in 2013, associated mainly with major and structural reductions in the water and electricity tariffs.

#### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

CBS	TGIF	CLAP
HOP	IONE	RIFT
ONA	BASE	EBBS
PASTEL	LOPA	
ITS	INTAKE	
SLIM	TNT	VAL
KITE	BOG	SETS
ILL	KAY	TREE
PILLAR	RYE	
INN	AERIAL	
AMFM	ALVA	CIA
DRIIP	BEER	EDT
SIRS	YARN	SEE



A general view shows the Tanger-Med container port and the Renault terminal in Ksar Sghir, near the northeastern Moroccan coastal city of Tangier. Since it has become a key point of commerce for the Moroccan economy, the port of Tanger-Med, one of the largest in Africa, continues its development under close surveillance with 500 security cameras and 700 electronic sensors to ensure the safety of the strategic crossing point of the Strait of Gibraltar. (AFP PHOTO)

### Higher medicine, food prices stoke Brazil inflation

BRASILIA (AFP) - Consumer prices edged up 0.3 percent in Brazil last month, fueled by higher medicine, clothing and housing prices, with 12-month inflation at 6.5 percent, the state statistics agency said yesterday.

The May increase, in line with market analysts' forecasts, was lower than the 0.5 percent recorded in April and the lowest since June 2012.

The Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute (IBGE) said medicine prices increased by 0.9 percent in May, clothing by 0.8 percent and housing by 0.7 percent.

Central Bank authorities want to bring inflation down to 4.5 percent this year.

Last month, the central bank raised its key interest rate by 0.50 points to 8.0 percent to control rising inflation, the second increase within weeks.

In April, the bank's monetary policy committee pushed the rate up by 0.25 points to 7.5 percent, the first increase since July 2011.

Experts were alarmed in March when it was confirmed that 12-month inflation reached 6.59 percent, above the official upper limit of 6.5 percent.

In 2012, Brazilian consumer prices rose 5.8 percent after a 6.5 percent hike the previous year, the highest level in seven years.

### Canada, US trade war looms over US country of origin labels

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canada yesterday threatened to slap duties on a litany of US goods including tomato ketchup, bed mattresses and swivel seats in a labels spat with its main trading partner.

Trade Minister Ed Fast said in a statement he would seek WTO approval for the retaliatory measures against the United States, which could take up to 18-24 months.

The dispute stems from a mandatory labeling requirement unveiled by the United States in 2009, aimed at providing consumers with more information about the safety and origin of their food.

Canada fought the so-called COOL (country-of-origin label-

ing) rule at the WTO saying it discriminated against Canadian products, and won. The WTO gave the United States until May 23 to comply with its rules.

But instead Washington merely tweaked the regulation.

"Despite consistent rulings by the World Trade Organization, the US government continues its unfair trade practices, which are severely damaging to Canadian industry and jobs," Fast said in a statement.

"We are preparing to launch the next phase of the WTO dispute settlement process on the new US rule, which we had hoped to avoid by the United States living up to its trade obligations," he said.



NAIROBI : AFP photo shows a vendor at her stall where she sells sun-dried fish at a meat market near the city center in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. Drying fish naturally by use of the sun's rays or smoke is a common practice among East Africa's communities living by fresh water lakes that ensures food keeps longer even without refrigeration. According to Unep, an estimated one third of all food produced, which translates to 1.3 billion tons, worth around \$1 trillion (\$h85 trillion) ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices each year.



## Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

### The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming

eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" -- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -- "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of

chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. **They are open from**

**11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining.**

**Tel. 5860606 and email: [saus.arubancuisine@live.com](mailto:saus.arubancuisine@live.com).**

from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

## Paris unveils new eyeful from Eiffel tower



PARIS (AFP) - Visitors to the Eiffel Tower get a little extra for the price of their entry ticket from Thursday with the unveiling of a new landmark on Paris's artistic landscape -- or skyline.

The new art work has been installed on a roof at the Quai Branly museum on the banks of the Seine, just a stone's throw from the iconic tower that is visited by more than seven million people every year.

From Thursday evening, those visitors will be able to admire a massive enlargement of a work by Australian Aboriginal artist Lena Nyadbi which has been stencilled on to the roof using rubberised paint.

The 700-square-metre (7,500 sq. ft) installation has been specifically designed so that it will be visible from sev-

eral different levels of the tower.

Its prominence at the centre of a city regarded as the art capital of the world will make it likely to become the best known example of the art of Australia's indigenous peoples, described by the late critic Robert Hughes as "the last great art movement of the 20th Century."

As such, it also represents remarkable recognition for Nyadbi, an artist now in her late 70s who began her working life as a labourer on the arid cattle stations of north-western Australia.

Her black and white abstract piece is entitled Dayiwul Lirlmim (Barramundi Scales) and is 46 times bigger than the ochre and charcoal original created as a visual interpretation of a creation story from the Gija people of Western

Australia.

In the story, three women try to catch a barramundi. The fish gets away from the women but, as it escapes over rocks, it scatters its scales across the territory of the Gija in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia, thus providing an explanation of why that region came to be one of the world's leading sources of diamonds.

Nyadbi's work is already a permanent fixture in the museum as she created a mural, Jimbirra and Gernerre (spearheads and scarifications), that adorns one of the external walls.

Works by seven other Australian Aboriginal artists are featured on ceilings throughout the museum.

An unusually chilly spring in Paris ensured the rooftop paintwork -- using the same weatherproof paint used for the city's traffic signs -- was completed just in time for the opening, museum director Stephane Martin told AFP.

"I had a few nerves last week when it was still raining -- we badly needed a few dry days to get it finished."

To mark the opening of the new rooftop installation, Australia's embassy in Paris is hosting a parallel exhibition of works by eight Gija artists.

## Koran manuscript withdrawn from sale after Egypt protests



PARIS (AFP) - A French auction house has withdrawn from sale a Koran manuscript that was taken from Cairo during Napoleon's Egyptian campaign at the end of the 18th century.

Auctioneers Osenat said they had decided not to proceed with the sale in light of strong opposition in Egypt and representations from Cairo's embassy in Paris.

"We are aware of the feelings that the proposed sale has provoked in Egypt and after friendly exchanges with the embassy, we decided to withdraw the manuscript from this weekend's sale," company director Jean-Pierre Osenat said.

The 47-page manuscript of the opening suras, or chapters, of the Islamic holy book was taken from the Al-Azhar mosque in Cairo by a Middle

Eastern specialist who accompanied Napoleon on his Egyptian campaign.

Egypt's ambassador to France, Mohamed Moustafa Kamel, thanked Osenat for his understanding.

Napoleon's invasion of Egypt in 1798 triggered a revolt in Cairo and the Al-Azhar mosque was the rebels' headquarters.

The French general ordered the revolt to be crushed and, during the ensuing attack on the mosque, the manuscript was saved from being destroyed by fire by Jean-Joseph Marcel, an orientalist who had accompanied Napoleon.

The manuscript now belongs to a private collector and Osenat admitted he did not yet know what would become of it.



## Murano Bijoux and More Paseo Herencia Aruba



in Aruba, but now she wanted to start a new project with her family, and at the same time honor part of her heritage.

They bring to Aruba the best brands from Murano, such as "Antica Murrina", "Tommasi", "Corte Murrina" and others.

The magnificent appearance and coloring of murano glass is achieved by adding gold or silver foil to the glass mixture and/or adding minerals such as zinc for white, cobalt for blue, manganese for



**Location:** Paseo Herencia Mall, local C-10.

**Contact:** [mura-noaruba@gmail.com](mailto:mura-noaruba@gmail.com) - [facebook.com/muranobijouxandmore](https://www.facebook.com/muranobijouxandmore)

**Open hours:** Monday to Saturday: 10.30a.m.-1.00pm and from 2.00-10.00p.m. and on Sundays from 6.00pm to 10.00pm.

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-- We found this unique store in Aruba: the Authentic Murano Glass jewelry and decorations, from Murano- Italy, to Aruba.

"Murano Glass" is only made on the island of Murano. Murano is one of the islands that compose Venice, "Venezia" in Italian.

Murano Bijoux and More is the first and only store with the concept of Murano home decorations and jewelry in the Caribbean. They have a selection of authentic murano art to make your house look spectacular, and fine jewelry made of glass, using many ancient techniques from the best glass masters in Venice/Italy.



The manager, Esmeralda Saetta, came with this idea since she has an Italian background, she has worked for years in the tourism business

violet, and so on, the glass is not painted, that's why it never will change color.

Murano Bijoux and More is a piece of Venice in Aruba.

## O Condominiums

### A small, exclusive boutique condo resort tailored to your taste



Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people

are proud to unveil their new pet project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be

the "jewel in the crown" of the nine projects they have successfully completed and maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-

bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paned and doors have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck, concierge services,

lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

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## Tennis: Nadal, Ferrer sets-up all Spanish French Open final



PARIS (AFP) - Defending champion Rafael Nadal moved closer to an historic eighth French Open title Friday when he defeated world number one Novak Djokovic 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-7 (3/7), 9-7 in a titanic semi-final.

In Sunday's title match, the third seed will face fourth-seeded compatriot David Ferrer who ended French hopes of a first champion in 30 years by sweeping past Jo-Wilfried

Tsonga 6-1, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2.

Nadal will be aiming to be the first man to win the same major eight times while 31-year-old Ferrer will be appearing in his first Grand Slam final.

He has reached the championship match at the 42nd time of asking but now faces overturning a 19-4 career deficit against his compatriot.

Nadal, the third seed, took his Paris record to a staggering

58 wins from 59 matches after recovering from 4-2 down in the deciding set to clinch victory after 4 hours and 37 minutes.

Friday's win was Nadal's 20th in 35 career clashes -- and 13th from 16 on clay -- against Djokovic.

On Sunday, Nadal will be appearing in his ninth final since returning from a seven-month injury lay-off.

Ferrer ended home hopes of sixth-seeded Tsonga who was out to match the feat of Yannick Noah, who last won the title for France in 1983.

But it was a richly deserved reward for outstanding perseverance on the part of 31-year-old Ferrer, who reached his first Grand Slam final in his 42nd appearance, by far the longest wait in the Open Era.

It will be the first all-Spanish final since 2002 when Albert Costa defeated Juan Carlos Ferrero.

## SPORTS

### Football: Confed Cup gives Chicharito chance to shine



MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico's popular forward Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez gets a new chance to shine for his country at the Confederations Cup after losing playing time with his club Manchester United.

The country's star striker was instrumental in getting his nation into the FIFA tournament in Brazil, which takes place between June 15-30, after scoring seven goals to win the 2011 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

His triumph in the regional tournament coincided with his brilliant debut with Manchester United in the 2010-2011 season, when he netted 20 goals to help the Red Devils win the Premier League and make him a household name in Europe.

In his second season, Manchester United only lifted the Community Shield and his goal tally dropped to 12 as his time on the pitch began to take a hit with the emergence of Danny Welbeck.

His playing time took even more of a knock last season with the arrival of former Arsenal striker Robin van Persie at Old Trafford, who helped Manchester United reclaim the Premier League title.

The 25-year-old forward voiced frustration at the end of the season, with British media quoting him as saying "all the players in the world want to start every single game," but he insisted that he was happy at the club.

Despite losing his place in the pecking order under Alex Ferguson, who retired after the season, Chicharito ("Little Pea") scored 18 goals in all competitions for Manchester United.

He has been impressive when he dons Mexico's green jersey, scoring 32 times in just 47 games since he joined the national team in 2009 while he was playing with Chivas of Guadalajara in Mexico.

Mexicans will hope he can continue his torrid pace in the Confederation Cup, when his team will face five-time World Cup champions Brazil, four-time World Cup winners Italy and Japan in Group A.

Chicharito, who scored two goals in the 2010 World Cup, admired Brazilian legend Ronaldo and tried to imitate him when he was in the Chivas youth teams, his father remembered.

After scoring 29 goals in 79 games for Chivas, under the guidance of current Mexico national team boss Jose Manuel de la Torre, Hernandez was sold to Manchester United in 2010 for \$9.1 million.

Mexico begin their campaign in Rio de Janeiro on June 16 against Euro championship runners-up Italy before taking on hosts Brazil on June 19 in the northeastern city of Fortaleza and closing the group stage against Japan on June 22.

## FIFA Confederation cup Brazil 2013:

-- All eight participating nations have now confirmed their squad lists for the FIFA Confederations Cup Brazil 2013.

Confed Cup begins on June 19 in Rio de Janeiro.

Brazil 2013 will undoubtedly witness some of the world's greats displaying their talent, not to mention providing a glimpse of some exciting up-and-coming international stars. It promises to be a treat for supporters across the globe and will surely whet the appetite ahead of next year's FIFA World Cup Players.

Teams: Brazil - Italy - Japan - Mexico- Nigeria -



Spain - Tahiti - Uruguay.

**Brazil's Squad List :**

**Goalkeepers**

1-JEFFERSON

12- JULIO CESAR

22-DIEGO CAVALIERI

**Defenders**

2-DANI ALVES

3-THIAGO SILVA

4-DAVID LUIZ

6-MARCELO

13-DANTE

14-FILIFE LUIS

15-JEAN

16-REVER

**Midfielders**

5-FERNANDO

8-HERNANES

17-LUIZ GUSTAVO

18-PAULINHO

**Forwards**

7-LUCAS

9-FRED

10-NEYMAR

11-OSCAR

19-HULK

20-BERNARD

21-LEANDRO DAMIAO

23-JADSON

**Coach**

SCOLARI Luiz Felipe



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## Golf: Tiger, McIlroy, Scott to start US Open together

ARDMORE (AFP) - World number one Tiger Woods, second-ranked Rory McIlroy and reigning Masters champion Adam Scott will play alongside each other in the first two rounds at next week's 113th US Open.

The US Golf Association announced in a Twitter posting on Friday that Woods, a 14-time major champion chasing the all-time record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus, will join Scott and McIlroy off the first tee next Thursday at 1:14pm local time (1714 GMT).

Third-ranked Scott, who became the first Australian to win a green jacket when he captured the title in April at



Augusta National, and McIlroy, the 2011 US Open and 2012 PGA Championship winner, join Woods off the 11th tee next Friday for round two. Scott's caddie is Steve Williams, the former caddie of Woods.

Full pairings were announced later, the tournament will open Thursday morning at with American Cliff Kresge starting off the first tee.

Other groupings for the first two rounds that promise to command attention include the all-South African lineup of major winners Louis Oosthuizen, Charl Schwartzel and Tim Clark, off the 11th tee Thursday at 7:33am (1133 GMT), and the trio behind them -- Irishman Pádraig Harrington, Spain's Sergio García and American Stewart Cink.

Americans Phil Mickelson, Steve Stricker and Keegan Bradley tee off two groups ahead of the South Africans while Americans Brandt Snedeker and Matt Kuchar and England's Justin Rose are in the group between.

Defending US Open champion Webb Simpson and fellow American Steven Fox, the reigning US Amateur champion, will tee off two groups behind the world's three top-ranked golfers on Thursday alongside 2012 British Open champion Ernie Els.

Just behind Woods, Scott and McIlroy will be Thailand's

Thongchai Jaidee, Denmark's Thorbjørn Olesen and Spain's Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano.

The four groups ahead of the Woods-McIlroy-Scott trio will earn some attention as well, the first of them including major winners Darren Clarke, David Toms and Jose Maria Olazabal and the next featuring more major winners Angel Cabrera, Paul Lawrie and Geoff Ogilvy.

England's Luke Donald and Lee Westwood join Germany's Martin Kaymer in the trio after that with the slot in front of the world's top three taken by another major-winning trio -- Graeme McDowell, Jim Furyk and Zach Johnson.

## Football: Venezuela denied as Bolivia snatch draw



**Bolivian national football team's palyer Gualberto Mojica (TOP) vies for the ball with Venezuela's Tomas Rincon**

LAPAZ (AFP) - Bolivia kept their faint hopes of World Cup qualification alive here Friday after a late equaliser from substitute Jhasmani Campos secured a precious 1-1 draw with Venezuela.

Campos popped up with a close-range header on 87 min-

utes to deny Venezuela a win which would have put them firmly on the road to their first ever appearance at a World Cup finals after skipper Juan Arango had fired them ahead in the 58th minute.

The result saw Venezuela inch ahead of Chile into fourth place in the South American qualifying standings with 16 points from 12 games. Chile however will reclaim fourth spot if they beat bottom side Paraguay in Asuncion.

Bolivia meanwhile remain in touch, mathematically at least, with 10 points from 12 games, five points adrift of fifth place.

The top four sides in South America's nine-team round-robin competition will qualify automatically for next year's finals in Brazil, with the fifth-placed side going into a play-off against their Asian counterpart.

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**REMEMBER**

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up**



**SEATTLE (AFP) - Members of the New York Yankees celebrate after defeating the Seattle Mariners 6-1 at Safeco Field on Thursday in the opener of a four-game set. Yesterday the Yankees Drafted 3B Jagielo, OF Judge, P Clarkin and Katoh while pitcher Chien-Ming Wang opted out of his minor league contract with the Yankees and plans to sign with the Toronto Blue Jays.**



## NBA: Spurs draw first blood in NBA finals

MIAMI (AFP) - The well-rested San Antonio Spurs stole home court advantage from the Miami Heat Thursday with the help of a clutch shot from Tony Parker in the waning seconds of game one of the NBA finals.

Parker, who finished with a game-high 21 points, ran the clock down before nailing an off-balance jump shot with just 5.2 seconds left in regulation as the Spurs beat the mistake-prone Heat 92-88 to take a 1-0 lead in the NBA finals.

Parker seemed to slip past every Heat player at one point in the series but when it came time to shoot he was defended by LeBron James. But the Frenchman still got the shot off just before the 24-second shooting clock expired.

"Tony did everything wrong and did everything right in the same possession," said James. "He stumbled two or three times, he fell over and when he fell over I was like OK, I am going to have to tie this ball up."

James can't be faulted for his defence on Parker's clutch shot but the Heat did make their share of blunders down the stretch and finished with eight turnovers on the night.

Miami appeared to be heading to a game one victory at home, leading 72-69 at the end of the third and 76-73 with just over nine minutes left in regulation before letting it slip away.

Miami will also host game two of the series but the defending NBA champion Heat have their work cut out for them in the 2-3-2 best-of-seven series format that rewards San Antonio with three games at home if the series goes long.



## Racing: Freedom Child seeks to crash Orb-Oxbow showdown

NEW YORK (AFP) - With Kentucky Derby winner Orb and Preakness champ Oxbow poised for a Belmont Stakes showdown on Saturday, Freedom Child was drawing attention as a potential spoiler in the last of 2013's Triple Crown races.

Freedom Child didn't race in either the Derby or the Preakness. In fact, his last race saw him winning the Peter Pan Stakes by 13 1/4 lengths at Belmont Park.

Trainer Tom Albertrani made his intentions clear after Freedom Child drew the number two post in the 14-horse field for the 1 1/2-mile race dubbed the Test of the Champion.

"I don't know if he is a horse that wants to be behind horses because he's got a free running

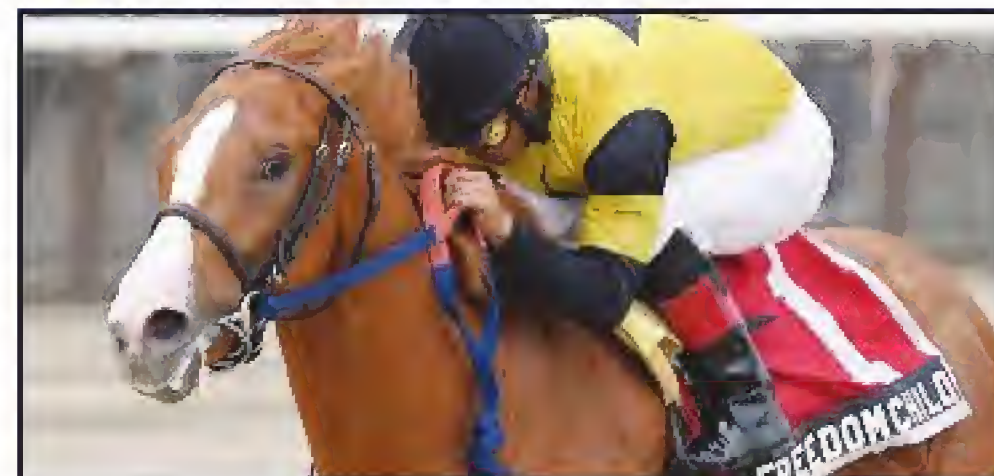
style," he said. "He'll probably want to find himself clear going into the first turn."

Freedom Child might have ended up in the Kentucky Derby, but his Wood Memorial in April was ruined by a starting-gate incident in which he got out of the gate so slowly that stewards declared him a non-runner, with all bets on him refunded.

Even so, Freedom Child got to within a few lengths of the lead before tiring badly.

So he failed to make the Derby field and instead won the Peter Pan on the weekend between the Derby and Preakness.

Affirmed in 1978 was the last horse to win US flat racing's coveted treble of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont.



With a Triple Crown sweep again impossible attention has focused on whether Orb or Oxbow can make it two out of three.

Orb, trained by Shug McGaughey, drew the fifth post and was installed as the early 3-1 favorite ahead of the Todd Pletcher-trained Revolutionary -- third in the Derby -- and Oxbow.

It will be the 21st time that

the Derby and Preakness winners meet in the Belmont. Derby winners have taken five such meetings with Preakness champions winning nine times and rivals taking the rest.

In addition, the rain in the forecast means Orb's Derby win at muddy Churchill Downs takes on added significance -- but then so does Freedom Child's triumph over a sealed, sloppy Belmont track in the Peter Pan.

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